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ABSTRACT

This book is a guide to staying focused on teaching and learning in the context of standards-based reforms. The aim is to make sense of the complex issues involved, explain the various perspectives, separate the useful from the harmful, and offer suggestions on how to proceed. The chapters are: (1) "What Gets in the Way of Important Learning: Problems of Tests and Testing Practices"; (2) "A Better Way: Powerful Learning Supported by Assessment"; (3) "Keeping Track of Student Learning: Inquiry Assessments"; (4) "Evaluation in a Different Key"; (5) "Possibilities and Problems of a Standards-Based Approach: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"; (6) "Using Standards and Assessments To Support Teaching and Learning"; (7) "Sitting Down To Score: Professional Learning through Standards and Assessments"; and (8) "Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Challenges for Educators in Challenging Times." (Contains 38 figures and 226 references.) (SLD)

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